

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of	)	Group Art Unit:
Harold K. Hilfiker, et al.	)	Examiner:
Application No. 09/568,338	)	
Filed: May 10, 2000	)	<u>FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL</u>
	)	<u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</u>
	)	<u>STATEMENT</u>
For: COMPRESSIBLE WELDED WIRE	)	2001 Ferry Building
WALL FOR RETAINING EARTHEN	)	San Francisco, CA
FORMATIONS	)	94111
	)	(415) 433-4150

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

on 6/9/00

LIMBACH & LIMBACH L.L.P.

Dated: 6/9/00 By: Camella J. Limbach  
Name

Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicant submits herewith the Declaration of William B. Hilfiker to attest to an experimental use which was made more than one year prior to the filing of the subject patent application. This Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months after the filing date of the application.

Respectfully submitted,  
LIMBACH & LIMBACH L.L.P.

Dated: June 9, 2000

By:

John K. Uilkema  
JOHN K. UILKEMA

Reg. No. 20,282

Tel. No. 415/433-4150

Our File: HFKP-300

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of	)	Group Art Unit:
Harold K. Hilfiker, et al.	)	Examiner:
Application No. 09/568,338	)	DECLARATION OF
Filed: May 10, 2000	)	<u>WILLIAM B. HILFIKER</u>
For: COMPRESSIBLE WELDED WIRE	)	2001 Ferry Building
WALL FOR RETAINING EARTHEN	)	San Francisco, CA
FORMATIONS	)	94111
	)	(415) 433-4150

---

I, William B. Hilfiker, hereby declare that:

1. I am one of the co-inventors of the subject application.

2. The drawing attached hereto as Exhibit A illustrates the construction of an experimental retaining wall ("experimental wall") which I had constructed and which was completed on November 20, 1998 at the residence of my friend Andy Gray, located at 1980 Greenwood Heights, Kneeland, California 95549 in Humboldt County.

3. The experimental wall was for purposes of testing the efficacy of a compressible welded wire wall which Harold K. Hilfiker and I envisioned for the purpose of constructing such walls which could settle due to soil compaction, without bulging of their face portions. In the experimental wall, the upper distal ends of the face portions of the soil

reinforcing mats for each lift bent outwardly at approximately 90° and hooked over the cross wire at the intersection of the floor and face portions of the next successive soil reinforcing mat thereabove. The backing mats were secured behind the face portions of the soil reinforcing mats by hog rings and served to support the floor portion of the next soil reinforcing mat thereabove so that the soil reinforcing mat could move downwardly as the soil of the wall compacted. The lower ends of the backing mats were free and spaced above the floor portions of the soil reinforcing mats therebelow by approximately three inches.

4. The experimental wall was constructed with clay backfill which had substantially no compaction. It had 27 inch high lifts, a composite height of approximately 12 feet and a length of approximately 130 feet. It was not a complete wall.

5. The experimental wall was constructed without a permit and at no charge. Its purpose was to enable us to observe what happened as the soil retained by the wall compacted and settled over time. The condition of the wall was checked during construction, upon completion, two weeks later and then on approximately a monthly basis until we were satisfied that we knew what could be expected as the soil of the wall settled.

6. The experimental wall did not provide a connection between the lower end of each successive backing mat and the face portion of the soil reinforcing mat therebelow, or the backing mat behind the soil reinforcing mat therebelow.

7. The periodic inspections of the experimental wall revealed that the wall did not permit the intended degree of soil compaction, without bulging of the face portions of the soil reinforcing mats. This resulted because the lowermost portions of the backing mats were outwardly displaced against the face portions of the soil reinforcing mats and, upon settling of the wall, the lowermost wires of the backing mats engaged the outwardly extending ends of the face portions of the soil reinforcing mats therebelow before the compaction intended to be permitted by the three inches between the lowermost wire of the backing mat and floor of the soil reinforcing mat therebelow took place.

8. After observing the bulging problems with the experimental wall, Harold K. Hilfiker and I developed the modified walls forming the subject of the present application to provide a construction wherein the backing mats are free to slide downwardly over the full intended degree of movement.

All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information are

believed to be true; with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title XVIII of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application and any patent issued thereon.

Dated: 6-5-00

By: William B Hilfiker  
WILLIAM B. HILFIKER

John K. Uilkema  
Reg. No. 20,282  
Limbach & Limbach  
2001 Ferry Building  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
Our File: HFKP-300

NOTE: THE SECOND TRANSVERSE WIRE ON THE BACKING MAT IS HOG-RINGED TO THE TOP TRANSVERSE WIRE ON THE SOIL REINFORCEMENT MAT

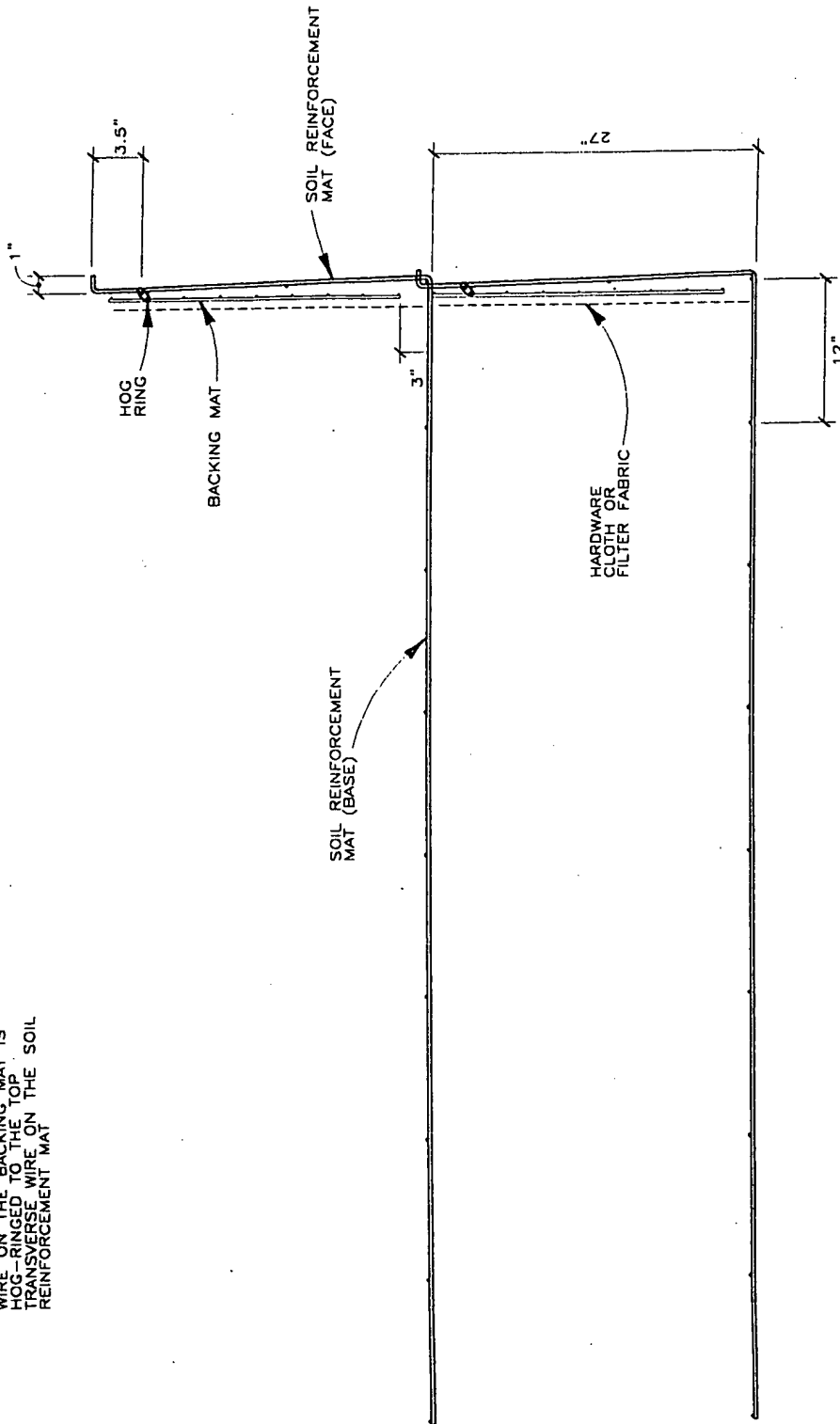


EXHIBIT A

REVISION DATE	BY	SCALE	PROJ. MGR.	HILFIKER RETAINING WALLS		DWG DATE	CONSTRUCTION DETAIL		PROJECT NO.
				3800 Broadway Eureka, CA 95503			WELDED WIRE RETAINING WALL, 27" LIFTS		
		LINE IS 10 UNITS LONG ON ORIGINAL DRAWING	BH	P.O. Box 2012 Eureka, CA 95501		26 MAY 00	FACE CONNECTION DETAIL		SHEET 1
			ENGINEER	707-443-5093 Fax 707-443-2891		REVISION DATE			OF 1
			CADD BY	Toll-Free 800-762-8962		SCALE	SECTIONAL DETAIL		
			MB	Web: <a href="http://hilfi.com">http://hilfi.com</a> email: <a href="mailto:info@hilfi.com">info@hilfi.com</a>		NONE			

WMCFS10X